

Inside

Holiday highlights

Soldiers and families have a host of happenings to look forward to in the coming weeks. See stories throughout this issue.



Focus on Butzbach Elementary School

Newsletters, reading programs and a wealth of emotional support keep students at "heart of community" on track. See page 26.



Muscle men

Thousands of kilograms of heavy metal were being hoisted for fun and competition at Giessen's Miller Hall Fitness Center Nov. 15. See page 28.

Herald Union



Vol. XI, No. 4

Serving the military communities of the 104th Area Support Group

Nov. 25, 2003

Building a police force

Baumholder Soldiers screen applicants in Baghdad

By Sgt. Mark Bell
372nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Several hundred Baghdad-area residents arrived early Nov. 13 to begin what could be a career as an Iraqi police officer. Sponsored by 1st Armored Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team, Iraqis spent hours waiting in line during an initial application process at the Iraqi Forum.

From a brief physical examination to random security background checks, 2nd BCT soldiers scrutinized application forms, checked for diabetes and held several other stations to ensure the best 500 applicants were submitted for possible selection into the police academy.

Applicants ranged from young 20-year-old adults looking for their first job to Iraqi army veterans.

"I want to serve my country," said Muafaq Adnan, 31, a former Iraqi special forces first sergeant. "I served my country for 16 years in the army, now I want to con-

tinue to serve my country as an Iraqi police officer. I know being a police officer would be much easier than being in the special forces."

Adnan said he was driven to apply for the 500 applicant positions because he wants to make a difference in a new Iraq.

"I don't want to go through the same tragedies we did under Saddam," he said. "I know we can make a difference in a better Iraq."

Applicants must be 20 years old and have a diploma from a secondary school, said Sgt. Chris Miller, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment.

Dixon was at the first station that looked over applications to ensure they were properly completed and the applicants met the basic age and education requirements.

Working to help make a better Iraq with the new Iraqi police makes Dixon's job feel more important as he personally looks over each

See Police on page 3



Photo by David Ruderman

U.S. Army Europe-based Soldiers are briefed at Rhein Main Air Base before starting their R&R leave.

Home for two weeks

Soldiers continue to roll through on R&R break from Iraq

By David Ruderman
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

They file off the airliner looking grim and gaunt. It's been a long deployment to Iraq and an exhausting trip back home for R&R leave.

"Tired; fiending for nicotine; ready to freak out. The flight has been way too long," said Pfc. Aaron Cornett of Battery A, 1-94th Field Artillery, based in Baumholder.

Cornett was one of about 200 Soldiers who arrived at Rhein Main Air Base in the wee hours Nov. 17 to begin a two week break from duty in Iraq through the Rest and Recuperation program that began in

October.

"Each group is different," said Bruce Brown, transportation specialist with the 104th Area Support Group's Directorate of Logistics. Brown and other 104th ASG civilians are on hand to meet every flight arriving from Kuwait and ensure Soldiers deplaning at Rhein Main have transportation lined up to get to where they're going once they leave the airport terminal. "Some of them come in here laughing; some are so tired they just want to get through."

"I'm just waiting to get home and spend time with my wife. We just got married last year," said Sgt.

Ron Collins, Battery B, 4-27th Field Artillery, from Baumholder. A field artillery mechanic, Collins said his daily missions in Iraq varied. "We work probably a few hours in a day on that [his job specialty] and the rest doing patrols right outside BIAP [Baghdad International Airport], whatever missions come up."

As with most R&R Soldiers, it took Collins three days of traveling to arrive in Germany. "It's a lot of waiting around, but that's to be expected," he said. He and his wife, a preschool teacher, didn't plan to travel during his leave, but spend their time together at home.

See R&R on page 4

At former U.S. Army hospital

Breaking ground for new U.S. consulate

By Karl Weisel
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

A groundbreaking ceremony for the new U.S. Consulate in Frankfurt Nov. 13 triggered a host of memories for many of the speakers and guests in attendance.

The consulate is slated to move from its present location in downtown Frankfurt by the Palmengarten

to the former U.S. Army hospital complex on Giessener Strasse in the summer of 2005.

Many of those who were on hand to witness the official start of construction work to prepare for the relocation, recounted personal tales of children born, wounds healed and illnesses treated at the huge former hospital facility.

"Today we will officially inau-

gurate the project that will turn this well-preserved hospital into one of our largest U.S. diplomatic establishments in less than two years from now," said Consul General Peter W. Bodde.

"Throughout its heyday, the hospital provided care to the more than 140,000 Soldiers and civilians stationed here, including our cur-

See Consulate on page 3



Photo by Sgt. Mark Bell

2nd Lt. Kenny Rivera, a physician's assistant with 1-35th Armor Regiment, examines a police force applicant in Baghdad.

Chapel holiday schedule ... See page 15

Commentary

Travel to Iraq no cakewalk

Commentary by Karl Weisel
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

We had intended to put together this issue after spending a week in Iraq talking to Soldiers and gathering stories and photos for a special Thanksgiving edition.

Having made the trek in June and realizing it takes several days of sheer persistence to obtain a seat on the cargo-laden aircraft operated by the U.S. Air Force, we started early — traveling to Rhein Main Air Base on a Thursday to submit our orders and get on the list for any seats which might come open in the following days. We also called Ramstein and after several calls got through to a live person and were told there would be a “showtime” for a flight to Baghdad on early Friday afternoon.

The next day we called Ramstein and Rhein Main only to be told there would be no flights to Iraq, but we might have luck on Saturday.

On Saturday a Ramstein Passenger Terminal representative assured us that several flights were headed to Baghdad so we made the hour-and-a-half drive to Ramstein only to be told all flights had been canceled. On the way back north we stopped at Rhein Main and were informed of two possible flights to Balad, Iraq — home of Logistical Support Activity Anaconda and many service members from 104th Area Support Group communities. After spending most of the afternoon and evening at Rhein Main in hopes of getting on a flight, only to be told that we were too far down on the list during a couple of showtimes, we headed home again near midnight in the hopes of catching a flight the next day.

On Sunday we never did reach a live person by phone at the Rhein Main passenger terminal, so decided to drive over again just in case any C-17s or C-141s were headed toward Iraq. Thirteen hours of waiting patiently by the Space Available desk through a several showtimes eventually paid off. At 12:30 a.m. Monday morning our names were selected and at 2:30 a.m. we boarded an extremely well-packed C-17, along



with an Air Force doctor on his way to Kirkuk and a 3rd Corps Support Command officer headed back to his unit in Balad.

At about 4:30 a.m. we got back off the aircraft — the flight crew had determined repairs were necessary before the bird could take to the sky. A couple of hours later the Rhein Main flight operations representative told us we could check back in for a different flight heading to Balad.

Punchy from lack of sleep, the four of us boarded another C-17 at about 7:30 a.m. and settled in for the five-hour flight to Iraq. Several hours later, we appeared to be circling and were told by the flight crew that the pilot had attempted landing at Balad, Baghdad and Kirkuk, but was turned away from all three airports because of low visibility caused by dust storms and bad weather.

Eleven hours after boarding the aircraft we were back in Rhein Main. We were told we might be able to catch a flight the next day when a fresh crew was available and if the weather improved. Realizing we were running out of time, we decided to abort our travel plans and try again at a later date — plus neither of us could face putting our wives and children through the fifth goodbye in as many days.

Although an extremely frustrating experience we got a chance to witness hundreds of jubilant Soldiers on R&R leave passing through the Rhein Main terminal in the wee hours of the morning on their way to destinations in Germany and the United States; the big-hearted volunteers of the USO staff who made sure cookies, computers and coffee were available around the clock; the truly professional manner of the airmen and airwomen serving at the Rhein-Main terminal and as the crew of our C-17; the hard-working Soldiers of the 64th Replacement Company and civilians of the 104th ASG's Transportation Division who were ever-present ensuring that R&R Soldiers made it to their final destination; and the dedicated Army and Air Force Exchange Service employees who were on hand to staff the facilities in the wee hours of the morning for R&R Soldiers on their way through the terminal.

Stay tuned for future coverage.

Second thoughts

Ten years after

Commentary by Anemone Rueger
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Remember as a child hearing your elders sharing stories about events that took place 10 years ago? Back then it seemed that a decade was forever.

Then I came home from work one day to find a letter inviting me to my 10th high school reunion, to journey back to Saxony where I grew up mostly under the Communist system and to measure the meaning of a decade's change.

I bought my ticket with some trepidation. The night before traveling I seriously considered letting it go to waste. A lot of water had gone down the Elbe River since I had last seen my classmates. It was just after the wall came down, and only the last three years of school had been any kind of fun. Only then was there no ridiculous Communist greeting in the morning, no fear of saying the wrong word.

And it was also “before” so many things — before traveling to Israel, France, England and the Ukraine to study; before the university years at Heidelberg; before making friends from around the world; and before landing a job with the U.S. Army.

Would my former classmates like all that? Had any of them escaped to the great big world? Would I be able to remember any names at all? So many questions, and only one way to find answers.

An unpleasant memory met me at the old school gate — the feeling of taking exams. All of a sudden that vivid nervousness was back. I procrastinated before walking in. Then I saw a familiar face and remembered the name. My mind and emotions struggled to make the link between the past and the present.

Now there was no turning back. Up the steps, through the door — and there were 40 biographies waiting to be shared with mine. What an intense moment: old memories with new haircuts and colors, smiles and surprised faces, so many familiar strangers.

I had questions to answer. “What, you went to the West? You ended up with the Americans? You are working with the military?” Telling my story over and over I realized how much water had indeed flowed under the bridge.

The only classmate who had studied with me all 12 years from elementary school through high school arrived in a wheelchair. I had heard of his accident and expected to meet a broken man, but here was a guy with shining eyes, so full of the excitement of life that others seemed handicapped by comparison.

We talked through the evening, finding it hard to believe each other's stories. He showed me the picture from his wedding the previous year, after he had recovered from his accident. “You know, I never even started asking myself why this happened,” he said. “God knows the reason and I know my life's in his hands.”

I was so glad I didn't throw out my train ticket.

Grateful for freedom at Thanksgiving

By Gen. James L. Jones
Commander U.S. European Command

Thanksgiving Day is a unique American holiday and custom. It originated in 1621 when the Pilgrims celebrated a day of thanksgiving with local Native Americans for the bountiful harvest that nature provided during their first year in the New World.

Through our nation's history this day has evolved into the celebration we enjoy today, which for most Americans means gathering together with family and friends.

Beyond the abundant harvests and tremendous natural resources with which nature has blessed our nation, we have much for which to be thankful. We enjoy political, economic



and religious freedoms that are a model for the rest of the world. This year Americans can be especially proud of the continued excellence of its military and its successes around the world against the threats to our values and freedoms.

Most importantly Americans are grateful to all of our citizens who voluntarily wear the uniform, especially those who are away from their families on this special holiday.

Diane and I would like to wish all Soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, coast guardsmen and the civilians of the European Command and their families a wonderful Thanksgiving. Let us reflect for a moment during this festive occasion and give thanks for all of the blessings that we enjoy as citizens of the United States. For those who will not be with family this year, know that our thoughts are with you and your loved ones during this time, and that all Americans are grateful for the sacrifices that you make on our behalf.

British, we were expecting one spooky room.

We were amazed by the number of rooms and the number of people involved. We really appreciate their efforts. Many thanks.

Jackii Crockett

Letter to the editor

My family attended the Halloween activities at the Mainz-Kastel Storage Station. We would like to thank all the people involved in creating the Haunted House. Being

Herald Union

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News and features

News flash

Iraq casualties

Spc. Robert T. Benson, age 20, of Spokane, Wash., died Nov. 4 from a non-hostile gunshot wound in Baghdad. Benson was assigned to Baumholder's Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment.

Pvt. Kurt R. Fosheiser, age 22, of Des Moines, Iowa, was killed Nov. 8 when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device in Baghdad. Fosheiser was assigned to Baumholder's 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment.

Sgt. Timothy L. Hayslett, age 26, of Newville, Pa., was killed in Baghdad Nov. 15 after being struck by an improvised explosive device. Hayslett was assigned to Friedberg's 1st Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment.

Capt. Nathan S. Dalley, age 27, of Kaysville, Utah, died from a non-hostile gunshot wound Nov. 17 in Baghdad. Dalley was assigned to Baumholder's 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division.

Thanksgiving greetings

If you missed the last issue of the *Herald Union*, you may not be aware of the robust Thanksgiving offerings available at local 104th Area Support Group dining facilities. Besides bus service to many of the facilities and special entertainment, greetings will be taped at each dining facility (except the Grossauheim Dining Facility) to be sent to Soldiers serving in Iraq. Look in the Nov. 11 edition of the newspaper or visit the 104th ASG website at www.104thasg.hanau.army.mil and click on "Thanksgiving feasts at local dining facilities" at the top of the page for a list of hours of operation and a bus schedule.

New Herald Union numbers

With the change in telephone numbers at Hanau's Cardwell, Francois, Hutier and Yorkhof Kasernes, the *Herald Union* also has a new number. To reach the newspaper office by DSN line dial mil 323-3257. By civilian telephone call (06181) 180-3257.

IMO Conference

The 102nd Signal Battalion will host an Information Management Officer Conference Dec. 9 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Wiesbaden Activities Center on Wiesbaden Army Airfield. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. that day. All signal officers, IMOs and other interested people are invited to attend the event which will include information about the Tier 3 Maintenance Program, the Microsoft Enterprise License Agreement, Information Assurance and the DUBOS Telecommunications Work Order and Tracking System. Register on the 102nd Signal webpage at <https://helpdesk.102sigbn.army.mil/conference.htm> or call Thomas F. Kosakowski at mil 322-1443 for more information.



Job recruitment at ACAP

Representatives of the Kellogg Brown and Root firm will be on hand at local Army Career and Alumni Program offices Dec. 10-12 to recruit "talented professionals" to work in Uzbekistan and Afghanistan. Jobs start early next year. Presentations and a question-and-answer session will be held from 9-10 a.m. Dec. 10 and 12 at the Wiesbaden ACAP office and the same time Dec. 11 at the Hanau ACAP office. Call Robert Scheider at mil 322-8308 in Hanau or Sharon Thomas at mil 337-5709 in Wiesbaden for details.

Army lodging price hike

Army lodging facilities worldwide will increase their room rates by \$1 starting Dec. 1. The price hike is aimed at improving the quality of lodging Army-wide, officials said. (IMA-E Public Affairs)



Photos by Karl Weisel

Frankfurt's former U.S. Army and Air Force hospital will serve as the new home of the U.S. Consulate. Photo left: Consul General Peter Bodde (from left), Lord Mayor Petra Roth, retired Maj. Gen. Charles Williams and Ambassador Daniel Coats break ground to launch the 40 million renovation project.

Consulate

Continued from page 1

rent secretary of state, Colin L. Powell," said Bodde. "The very first open-heart surgery in Frankfurt was conducted right here. The hospital was an absolutely integral part of the half-century-long American military presence that turned the Cold War that began after Potsdam into the unified Germany of today."

"Making this 23-acre facility a major European center for the Department of State brings this building to a new stage of its history," said Ambassador Daniel R. Coats. "A structure that opened in the darkness of August 1939 and later witnessed the birth of more than 100,000 babies to American soldiers protecting a divided Germany during the long Cold War battle is reborn today with a new mission."

"This was not my first visit to this hospital," said retired Maj. Gen. Charles E. Williams, director of Overseas Buildings Operations for the State Department. As a former U.S. Army engineer stationed in Germany, Williams said his two sons were born in the former 97th General Hospital. "So I am quite familiar with the maternity ward."

The U.S. Consulate, which provides an array of services for American citizens overseas including issuing passports

and birth certificates, visiting prisoners and providing federal benefits and tax information, will consolidate its many operations and agencies from several different locations in the Frankfurt area into one secure site, officials said. "This complex will not only house the consulate general, but will also provide office and housing for our Marines and a regional warehouse facility," Williams said.

The State Department purchased the facility in 2002 for \$30.3 million. When the more than \$40 million construction project is completed the new consulate will be the largest U.S. diplomatic facility of its kind outside the United States providing some 325,000 square feet of office space, officials said.

Besides the millions of dollars which will be invested in the local economy, the renovation project will also create hundreds of jobs for German workers, Williams said. "With purchase of local materials and contracts, we'll add to the local economy."

"This project is a sign of our steadfast friendship," said Frankfurt Lord Mayor Petra Roth. "As Germany's most American city, we believe this is indeed a bold step into the future."

Police

Continued from page 1

application with the help of two 2nd BCT soldiers.

"It's time the Iraqis begin to police themselves," said Dixon. "They know their people better than we will ever understand. Together, with the help of the new Iraqi police, we will be able to make a better Iraq. The end result we all want is to help Iraq get back to a safe environment."

Division medics, physician's assistants and doctors examine applicants. For some of the Iraqis it was the first medical examination in their lives. From head to toe, applicants' blood pressure, eyes and abdomen were checked to ensure the Iraqis have an overall health checkup before being selected to attend the academy.

Obesity, uncorrectable bad vision and diabetes will disqualify an applicant from becoming a police officer, said 2nd Lt. Kenny Rivera, a physician's assistant with 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment. "We basically are doing a quick and general head to toe medical check to ensure there are no obvious medical conditions that would hinder them in their ability to perform as police officers," said Rivera. "All the applicants should be fit enough to handle the routine tasks required of a police officer here. They need to be fast-



Photo by Sgt. Mark Bell

An Iraqi police candidate fills out an application form.

reacting and to be able to provide protection to the Iraqi people.

"We can't do any blood tests or get into deep medicines here," he said. "We are just giving a general check to make sure they are physically capable of completing the academy."

Within four days the team of several dozen 2nd BCT soldiers and a platoon of infantry soldiers providing security and escort service will have seen more than 1,000 applicants. Maj. Linda Scharf, the brigade civil affairs officer, said she hopes to meet the division requirement of 500 qualified applicants.

"We don't really know exactly how many new Iraqi police are needed," she said in between her introductory briefs.

More important than the basic education, age and health requirements, Scharf

said she hopes the new Iraqi police force is built on a foundation of pride and honor.

"We are helping rebuild an Iraqi police that is not corrupt and taking bribes and making a safer place to live for the Iraqi people," she said. "We are basically looking for a good moral character. We have developed a set of questions to help us determine character, but unlike the other requirements character is a very gray area — it's not black and white."

News and features

Singer educator Children's entertainer performs at Gelnhausen Elementary School

By Mary Crawford
Gelnhausen Elementary School
Parent Teacher Association

It seems as if everyone at Gelnhausen Elementary School is either singing or humming Dan Crow's catchy song "Kiss the Cow."

Crow put on two shows for captivated audiences at the school Nov. 4 at the invitation of the Parent Teacher Association. Students, teachers and parents said they thoroughly enjoyed the performances and were excited to participate during the shows.

Crow is among America's most popular children's entertainers and recording artists. He has won numerous awards including the Gold Parents Choice Award. He appears

regularly on the Learning Channel and Nickelodeon. He has composed over 100 songs and is known for his performance of the title song for the family film "The Adventures of Milo and Otis."

Crow's "Reading, Writing and Rhythm" program consists of participatory songs and stories that concentrate on skills in phonics and grammar. Though students may have thought Crow was there to sing and to entertain them, he was actually teaching them through his songs.

Students and teachers said they are eagerly looking forward to Crow's return next year. Until then they will have to make due with their own versions of "Kiss the Cow."

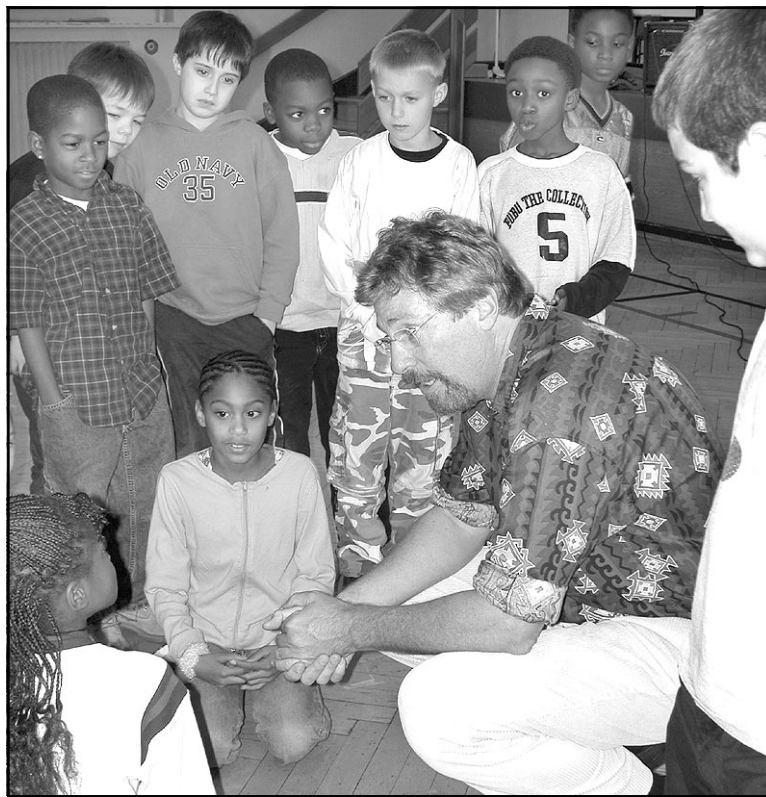


Photo by Mary Crawford

Dan Crow chats with his fans at Gelnhausen Elementary School.

News flash

Driving crackdown

The Army in Europe's "Booze It and Lose It" and "Click It or Ticket" campaigns will be repeated during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. "U.S. Military Police will target drunk driving and ensure seatbelt use compliance on military installations and in housing areas at various times between Nov. 26 and 30," said Lt. Col. Carol A. McKinney, chief of Law Enforcement Operations at the Army in Europe Office of the Provost Marshal. "I think many young Soldiers underestimate the alcohol strength of the beer and liquor in Europe and pay the price for miscalculation when the police stop them." (Army in Europe Office of the Provost Marshal)

Preston to be new enlisted chief

V Corps and Combined Joint Task Force 7 Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth O. Preston has been selected to become the next sergeant major of the Army Jan. 15. Preston will succeed Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack L. Tilley who will retire after 35 years of Army service.



Santa has email

Children can email their wish lists for Christmas directly to Santa. Include a return mailing address and Santa will respond with a personalized postcard in the mail. Children's names may also appear in the "News from the North Pole" section in the *Stars and Stripes* on Dec. 9, 16 and 22. The last day to email wish lists to santac@mail.estripes.osd.mil is Dec. 18. (Stars and Stripes Release)

Jobs guide

A new guidebook for managers of civilian employees called "Managers/Supervisors Job Kit: Filling Jobs in USAREUR," produced by the U.S. Army Europe Civilian Personnel Operations Center, is available online at www.chrma.hq.usareur.army.mil (click on "What's New"). The guide provides instructions on how to effectively recruit and hire qualified employees using the Army's human resource information system, Resumix. (USAREUR Civilian Personnel Directorate)

R&R

Continued from page 1

Being separated from her has been the hardest part of the deployment, he said, "just being away from my wife for the first time. I was deployed to Bosnia and Kosovo, but I was a single soldier then — and seeing people get wounded and shot," he said.

"I'm here, so it's better now," said Sgt. Kevin Malloy, Company A, 141st Signal Battalion, from Wiesbaden. "All things considered it's a whole lot better [the R&R program] than I thought it would be."

He said morale in his unit was holding steady. "It's pretty good, especially now when everybody's getting their two weeks of R&R. I'm going to spend the time with my family, see my kids and play Playstation."

"I'm with C Battery," said Spc.

Robert Scott of 4-27th Field Artillery. "Our main job was guarding rail stuff about a mile from the al-Rashid Hotel. The first time it was attacked I was on the roof [of his unit's location]. The second time I'd just gotten off shift when they attacked. It's exciting. Everyday something new seems to happen, but you just don't know how it's going to end. I just hope Ramadan ends and things calm down."

Scott looked forward to spending two weeks with his wife and three daughters. "She's handling her own. I know my daughters will be happy to see me. We're going to stay home, relax and spend time with each other," he said.

At 1 a.m. the travel weary troops are split into two groups — those remaining in Europe and those traveling on to Baltimore Washington International Airport in Maryland.

Those headed stateside are released into the terminal to eat, smoke and get to a telephone while their plane is refueled for the next leg of the flight.

Those staying in Europe remain for an outbriefing. A video safety briefing has its comic moments — ripples of laughter run through the group of about 60, and the tension level drops a notch or two.

Two chaplains address the Soldiers offering the opportunity to talk about anything on their minds, from their experiences in Iraq to the latest college and pro football action. They make a pitch for the Army One Source program, a series of six free and confidential talk therapy sessions all Soldiers are welcome to use.

An Armed Forces Recreation Center representative makes a pitch for specially priced getaway deals to Garmisch. When it's over the Soldiers file out to have their leave papers stamped and head downstairs to pick up their gear for a Customs check before being released.

Once it's over the Soldiers are free to go. "The best part is seeing spouses reunite," said Brown. "Some come to pick up their husbands."

"And the kids are yelling 'Hi, Dad,'" said Jessica Winter, logistics management specialist with the 104th ASG. "Some have their girlfriends or spouses come meet them here [from the States]. A lot go to Garmisch."

Some Soldiers from stateside units opt to spend their R&R time in Europe, said Winter and Brown.

"It's great. They want us to take them to the train station. They get some euros and they go," said Winter.

"And they've never been to Germany before. I think it's just awesome," said Brown.

"They have been so happy," said Winter. "One guy said it was the first time he was able to put down his guard."

"They really appreciate the bus service," said Brown. Living up to their cell's motto of "No Soldier Will Be Left Behind," Brown and Winter make sure every Soldier exiting the terminal has a ride to his or her destination. Other DOL colleagues work the other half of the transportation cycle, making sure Soldiers get back for their return flights in two weeks time. Operations go on every night.

"There are a lot of cogs: Installation Management Agency-Europe, V Corps, 64th Replacement Company has a lot of people. The bus contractors have been outstanding. They've been really flexible. They'll go out of route to get Soldiers home," said Brown.

Outside the exit gate Danielle Capps waits for her husband, 1st Lt. Jay Capps of Friedberg's 1-37th Armor. "He left in May. It's been hard, but I have a job that keeps me pretty busy," said the Butzbach Elementary School fourth-grade teacher. "We email, but he doesn't tell me much about what he's doing. We might go to Garmisch," she said.

The conversation ends when Jay appears and their two weeks begin with a kiss.



Photo by David Ruderman

A Customs inspector hand searches Sgt. Ron Collins' gear at Rhein Main Air Base before he is released to head home to Baumholder.

Annual clean-up Dec. 8-12

By Cassandra Kardeke
221st Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

The weather has gotten a bit colder, the leaves have just about left trees barren for the winter and fall cleanup is just around the corner for communities within the 221st Base Support Battalion.

Each year the BSB hosts a community-wide fall cleanup. During the week of Dec. 8-12 Soldiers, civilians and family members are encouraged to clean up around their workplaces and living quarters. Although the focus of the cleanup will be in the work and common use areas Dec. 8-11, Soldiers will be released early Dec. 12 to continue the cleanup in residential areas.

To help with the cleanup residents are asked to stop by the Self Help Store in Hainerberg Housing or Dexheim to pick up any supplies they may need such as bulk trash bags and lawn care items including rakes, trimmers and edgers.

"This is the time we set aside so that Soldiers and family members can work together to help clean up our area," said Sgt. Maj. Stephen Smith, BSB command sergeant major. "We work diligently to ensure everything needed to clean up our areas is provided and available to residents and units. All they have to do is ask for it."

Not only are supplies readily available, the Directorate of Public Works has placed 17 large dumpsters throughout each of the housing areas for green waste.

"These dumpsters are not for

regular garbage, just strictly leaves or trimmings," said John Howe of DPW. Residents are reminded not to bag up leaves or trimmings and then dispose of them in the dumpsters. The dumpsters are not to contain plastic at all.

Bulk trash is currently being picked up weekly throughout the housing areas, said officials. "It is very difficult to pick up the bulk trash where cars are parked," said Dieter Fries, chief of sanitation at DPW, "however, bulk trash should be placed on the curb along the street near the trash and recycling islands. Try not to park in front of these places so that the trash can be removed."

Bulk trash consists of unused furniture and other household items that are causing clutter in basements or attics. Wood and metal items must be separated.

Although the fall cleanup is a good time to get rid of garbage and unused junk, officials asked that residents ensure the proper disposal of problematic items such as tires or batteries.

"Some people don't realize that tires and batteries are considered hazardous waste, but they are," said Smith. The Hainerberg Self Help Store has marked and designated dumpsters specifically for these items. It also serves as a collection point for unused household cleaning materials and spray paint cans.

"If you've got this stuff left over and aren't using it, just take it to Self Help and they'll take care of it for you," he said.



Wiesbaden fitness center hosts powwow

Nuva uahu Namingha performs a traditional Hopi Indian dance during a Native American Heritage performance at the Tony Bass Fitness Center Nov. 5. Namingha, his parents, Lindbergh and Sonnhild, sisters, Nu uangdala and Dalahongsie, live in Germany and perform throughout Europe to bring Native American heritage awareness to communities. To learn more about other Native American groups in Europe visit the Native American Association of Germany's website at www.naaog.de.

Photo by Spc. Susan Newsome